



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

PLANTING RESULTS FOR 2012 NOW AVAILABLE

NASHVILLE, June 29, 2012 – Tennessee crop farmers, with the exception of cotton, were greeted this spring with a good outlook for prices and warm weather that resulted in very early spring planting. Wheat and hay harvests were also expedited. Debra Kenerson, State Director, stated “It was one of the earliest planting seasons in history and farmers had prime conditions to meet their intentions early. Unfortunately, since planting, growers have experienced dry conditions.” Based on a recent survey conducted by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service Tennessee Field Office, corn and soybean growers planted more acreage than in 2011. Cotton acreage fell nearly a quarter from last year’s acreage. Tennessee’s crops are rated in mostly fair-to-good condition and are experiencing dry weather stress. Crop acreages and changes from last year are as follows: **Cotton**, 380,000 acres, down 23 percent; **Soybeans**, 1.33 million acres, up 3 percent; **Corn**, 930,000 acres, up 18 percent; **Tobacco**, 22,100 acres, up less than 1 percent; **Wheat**, 420,000 acres, no change; and **Hay**, 1.80 million acres, down 4 percent.

COTTON ACREAGE LESS THAN INTENDED

Cotton acreage for 2012 is estimated at 380,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from earlier intentions and 115,000 less than last year. Planting started on-time, but later was delayed slightly due to dry conditions. Spotty showers finally arrived and planting was completed with time to spare. Producers cited plummeting prices as the main reason for reducing acreage. The cotton crop is in the squaring stage and developing at a pace a few days ahead of the five-year average. The acreage is rated in mostly good condition.

SOYBEAN ACREAGE INCHES UPWARD

Tennessee’s 2012 soybean acreage is estimated at 1.33 million acres, up 40,000 acres from 2011 and up 90,000 acres from earlier intentions. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.29 million acres, up 40,000 acres from 2011. A hot, dry stretch delayed full season bean planting for a while. The weather did, however, allow the wheat crop to come off two weeks earlier than normal giving producers the opportunity of waiting for showers to plant double-cropped beans. Soybeans are developing at a pace nearly two weeks ahead of schedule and are rated in fair-to-good condition. A general soaking rain is needed.

CORN ACREAGE SKYROCKETS

The State’s corn acreage is estimated at 930,000 acres, the most acreage in over 25 years, up 140,000 acres from last year, but down 2 percent from earlier intentions. Growers expect to harvest 870,000 acres for grain, up 135,000 acres from a year earlier. Corn planting was generally completed by the second week of May, a pace over 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Rapid development has ensued as conditions have remained warm with occasional rainfall. Currently, the corn crop is in the silking stage of development and in many areas plants are suffering from lack of moisture. The corn crop is rated in fair-to-good condition.

BURLEY TOBACCO ACREAGE CLIMBS; DARK FIRE-CURED ACREAGE SLIDES

The State’s burley tobacco acreage is forecast to increase by 1,000 acres from the previous year to 15,000 acres. Total tobacco acreage, which includes burley, dark fire-cured and dark air-cured, is set at a total of 22,100 acres, up only 100 acres from a year earlier. Dark tobacco acreage and changes from 2011 are as follows: Dark Fire-cured, 6,000 acres, down 13 percent; Dark Air-cured, 1,100 acres, no change from 2011. Tobacco transplanting was completed about one week earlier than normal. The crop is rated in mostly good condition.

(OVER)

WHEAT ACREAGE REMAINS STEADY

The winter wheat planted area for the 2012 season is estimated at 420,000 acres, no change from 2011. Grain harvest reached 350,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2011. Tennessee's wheat growers benefitted from excellent growing conditions throughout the season. First, virtually all of the state's wheat acreage had been seeded by early December. Next, above normal temperatures and precipitation persisted across the state in the early spring. Disease and frost damage were minimal. Harvest progressed at its fastest rate in at least forty years.

HAY ACREAGE DIPS

Tennessee producers intend to harvest 1.80 million acres of hay in 2012, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Alfalfa acreage is estimated at 10,000 acres, down 50 percent from last year. All other hay is estimated at 1.79 million acres, down 70,000 acres from 2011. Hay harvest has been slightly ahead of schedule this year largely due to dry conditions. The first cutting of hay is complete. Pastures and hay fields have suffered from the combination of unusually warm temperatures and below average rainfall.

Planted and Harvested Acreage of Principal Crops: Tennessee and U.S., 2011-2012

Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011/2012
	1,000 Acres				Percent
TENNESSEE					
Corn	790	930	735	870	118.4
Cotton	495	380	490	¹	-
Soybeans	1,290	1,330	1,250	1,290	103.2
Winter Wheat	420	420	310	350	112.9
Hay, all	-	-	1,880	1,800	95.7
Alfalfa	-	-	20	10	50.0
All Other	-	-	1,860	1,790	96.2
Tobacco, all	-	-	22.0	22.1	100.5
Dark fire-cured	-	-	6.90	6.00	87.0
Burley	-	-	14.0	15.0	107.1
Dark air-cured	-	-	1.1	1.1	100.0
UNITED STATES					
Corn	91,921	96,405	83,981	88,851	105.8
Cotton ²	14,735.4	12,635.0	9,460.9	¹	-
Soybeans	74,976	76,080	73,636	75,315	102.3
Winter Wheat	40,646	41,819	32,314	35,023	108.4
Hay, all	-	-	55,633	57,669	103.7
Alfalfa	-	-	19,213	18,827	98.0
All Other	-	-	36,420	38,842	106.7
Tobacco, all	-	-	325.0	323.7	99.6
Dark fire-cured	-	-	16.40	15.35	93.6
Burley	-	-	88.9	96.8	108.9
Dark air-cured	-	-	5.5	4.6	83.6

¹Estimate to be released August 10, 2012. ²U.S. acreage includes American Pima cotton.